

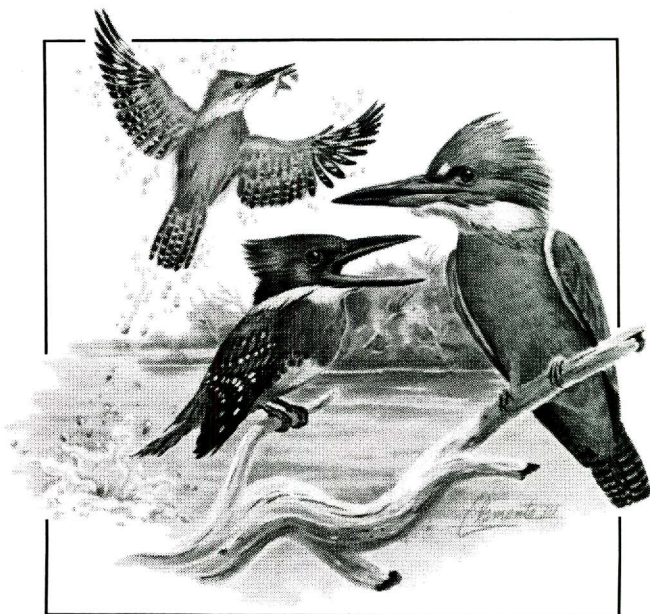
TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

BIRDS

OF

ESTERO LLANO GRANDE
STATE PARK

WORLD BIRDING CENTER



A FIELD CHECKLIST

2012

TEXAS DOCUMENT
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*Cover: Illustration of Belted, Green and Ringed Kingfishers
by Clemente Guzman.*

INTRODUCTION

Estero Llano Grande State Park, the Weslaco wing of the World Birding Center, encompasses approximately 250 acres of restored wetlands and subtropical thorn-scrub forest. The park is located in the heart of the subtropical Lower Rio Grande Valley, a four-county area that has unmatched biotic diversity, documenting 528 species of birds, over 300 species of butterflies and over 1,100 species of plants.

Estero Llano Grande State Park is seated at the geographic center of the World Birding Center network and is the site with the largest wetlands environment. This former agricultural field has been restored to thriving wetlands and flourishing woodlands through cooperative efforts from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the World Birding Center, the City of Weslaco and Ducks Unlimited. Since its opening in June 2006, Estero Llano Grande State Park has documented over 325 species of birds. Many of these birds are subtropical species typical of eastern Mexico and are not found north of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Some of the characteristic species of the park include Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Plain Chachalaca, Least Grebe, Neotropic Cormorant, Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork, Black-necked Stilt, Red-crowned Parrot, Groove-billed Ani, Green Kingfisher, Great Kiskadee, Green Jay and Altamira Oriole. Within its first year of opening, Estero Llano Grande State Park gained attention by attracting a rarely seen bird, the Northern Jacana, which resided in the park for over three months.

This checklist, compiled by John Arvin and updated by park staff, is based on observations by numerous individuals and includes species which have been observed within or passing over the park. Nomenclature and organization for this checklist follow the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds, 7th edition*, 1998, as currently supplemented.

For information on how to contribute your sightings to a state wide bird database, visit Texas eBird online at www.ebird.org/tx/about/. We would greatly appreciate reports to our visitor's center of any bird designated as a visitor (v), rare (x), or not on this list. You may also send reports by mail to Estero Llano Grande State Park, World Birding Center, 154 A. Lakeview Drive, Weslaco, Texas 78596.

Please help us protect the natural avian communities in our parks by refraining from using playback tapes of bird songs. Frequent use of these tapes disrupts normal avian activity patterns and essential territorial behavior, and may lead to nest failure. Thank you for your cooperation.

LEGEND

- R - Resident
W - Winter (September-February)
S - Summer (March-August)
V - Visitor; not usually seen but may make an appearance
X - Rare, few records
T - Transient; may be seen during migration
ssp. - Subspecies

Underlined birds indicate park specialties.

CHECKLIST

Swans, Geese and Ducks

_____ <u>Black-bellied Whistling-Duck</u>	R
_____ <u>Fulvous Whistling-Duck</u>	SR
_____ Greater White-fronted Goose	WF
_____ Snow Goose	WF
_____ Ross's Goose	WF
_____ Wood Duck	WV
_____ Gadwall	WR
_____ American Wigeon	WR
_____ Mallard	WX
_____ Mexican Duck (Mallard ssp.)	X
_____ Mottled Duck	R
_____ Blue-winged Teal	WR
_____ Cinnamon Teal	WR

_____	Northern Shoveler.....	WR
_____	Northern Pintail.....	WR
_____	Green-winged Teal.....	WR
_____	Canvasback.....	WV
_____	Redhead.....	WV
_____	Ring-necked Duck.....	WR
_____	Greater Scaup.....	X
_____	Lesser Scaup.....	WR
_____	Bufflehead.....	WV
_____	Hooded Merganser.....	WX
_____	Red-breasted Merganser.....	WV
_____	Masked Duck.....	X
_____	Ruddy Duck.....	WR
Upland Game Birds		
_____	<u>Plain Chachalaca</u>	R
_____	Northern Bobwhite.....	R
Grebes		
_____	<u>Least Grebe</u>	R
_____	Pied-billed Grebe.....	R
_____	Eared Grebe.....	WV
Storks, Frigatebirds		
_____	<u>Wood Stork</u>	SR
_____	Magnificent Frigatebird.....	SV
Cormorants		
_____	<u>Neotropic Cormorant</u>	R
_____	Double-crested Cormorant.....	WR
Anhingas		
_____	Anhinga.....	WR
Pelicans		
_____	<u>American White Pelican</u>	WR
_____	Brown Pelican.....	F
Hérons		
_____	American Bittern.....	WV
_____	Least Bittern.....	SR
_____	Great Blue Heron.....	R
_____	Great Egret.....	R

_____	Snowy Egret	R
_____	Little Blue Heron	R
_____	Tricolored Heron	R
_____	Reddish Egret	V
_____	Cattle Egret	R
_____	Green Heron	SR
_____	Black-crowned Night-Heron	R
_____	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	R
Ibises and Spoonbills		
_____	White Ibis	V
_____	Glossy Ibis	X
_____	<u>White-faced Ibis</u>	WR
_____	<u>Roseate Spoonbill</u>	V
New World Vultures		
_____	Black Vulture	R
_____	Turkey Vulture	R
Kites, Eagles, and Hawks		
_____	Osprey	WR
_____	Swallow-tailed Kite	T
_____	White-tailed Kite	R
_____	Mississippi Kite	T
_____	Northern Harrier	WR
_____	Sharp-shinned Hawk	WR
_____	Cooper's Hawk	WR
_____	Harris's Hawk	R
_____	Red-shouldered Hawk	WR
_____	Broad-winged Hawk	T
_____	Swainson's Hawk	T
_____	White-tailed Hawk	V
_____	Zone-tailed Hawk	X
_____	Red-tailed Hawk	WR
Falcons and Caracaras		
_____	Crested Caracara	V
_____	American Kestrel	WR
_____	Merlin	WR
_____	Peregrine Falcon	WR

Rails, Gallinules, and Coots

___ Clapper Rail.....	X
___ King Rail.....	V
___ Virginia Rail.....	WV
___ Sora.....	WR
___ <u>Purple Gallinule</u>	SV
___ Common Gallinule.....	R
___ American Coot.....	R

Cranes

___ Sandhill Crane.....	WF
___ Whooping Crane.....	X

Plovers

___ Black-bellied Plover.....	T
___ American Golden Plover.....	T
___ Semipalmated Plover.....	T
___ Killdeer.....	R

Stilts and Avocets

___ <u>Black-necked Stilt</u>	R
___ <u>American Avocet</u>	WR

Jacanas

___ Northern Jacana.....	X
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Sandpipers and Phalaropes

___ Spotted Sandpiper.....	WR
___ <u>Solitary Sandpiper</u>	WR
___ <u>Greater Yellowlegs</u>	WR
___ <u>Lesser Yellowlegs</u>	WR
___ Upland Sandpiper.....	T
___ Long-billed Curlew.....	WR
___ Hudsonian Godwit.....	ST
___ Marbled Godwit.....	WT
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper.....	T
___ <u>Western Sandpiper</u>	WR
___ <u>Least Sandpiper</u>	WR
___ <u>White-rumped Sandpiper</u>	T
___ Baird's Sandpiper.....	T
___ <u>Pectoral Sandpiper</u>	T

_____	Dunlin	WV
_____	<u>Stilt Sandpiper</u>	WR
_____	Buff-breasted Sandpiper.....	T
_____	<u>Short-billed Dowitcher</u>	WV
_____	<u>Long-billed Dowitcher</u>	WR
_____	Wilson's Snipe.....	WR
_____	American Woodcock.....	X
_____	<u>Wilson's Phalarope</u>	T
Gulls and Terns		
_____	Laughing Gull.....	V
_____	Franklin's Gull.....	T
_____	Ring-billed Gull.....	WV
_____	Herring Gull.....	WV
_____	Least Tern.....	SR
_____	Gull-billed Tern.....	R
_____	Caspian Tern.....	R
_____	Black Tern.....	T
_____	Forster's Tern.....	R
_____	Sandwich Tern.....	SV
_____	Black Skimmer.....	V
Pigeons and Doves		
_____	Rock Pigeon.....	R
_____	Eurasian Collared-Dove.....	V
_____	White-winged Dove.....	R
_____	Mourning Dove.....	R
_____	Inca Dove.....	R
_____	Common Ground-Dove.....	R
_____	Ruddy Ground-Dove.....	X
_____	<u>White-tipped Dove</u>	R
Parrots and Parakeets		
_____	Green Parakeet.....	V
_____	<u>Red-crowned Parrot</u>	V
Cuckoos		
_____	Yellow-billed Cuckoo.....	SR
_____	Black-billed Cuckoo.....	T
_____	Greater Roadrunner.....	V
_____	<u>Groove-billed Ani</u>	SR

Owls

_____ Barn Owl.....	R
_____ Eastern Screech-Owl.....	R
_____ Great Horned Owl.....	R
_____ Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl.....	X
_____ Elf Owl.....	X
_____ Short-eared Owl.....	WV

Goatsuckers

_____ Lesser Nighthawk.....	SR
_____ Common Nighthawk.....	SR
_____ <u>Common Pauraque</u>	R
_____ Chuck-wills-widow.....	T

Swifts

_____ Chimney Swift.....	SR
_____ White-throated Swift.....	X

Hummingbirds

_____ <u>Buff-bellied Hummingbird</u>	R
_____ Blue-throated Hummingbird.....	X
_____ Ruby-throated Hummingbird.....	WR
_____ Black-chinned Hummingbird.....	WR, S
_____ Anna's Hummingbird.....	X
_____ Broad-tailed Hummingbird.....	X
_____ Rufous Hummingbird.....	WV

Kingfishers

_____ <u>Ringed Kingfisher</u>	R
_____ Belted Kingfisher.....	WR
_____ <u>Green Kingfisher</u>	R

Woodpeckers

_____ Golden-fronted Woodpecker.....	R
_____ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.....	WV
_____ Ladder-backed Woodpecker.....	R
_____ Northern Flicker.....	WV

Tyrant Flycatchers

_____ Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet.....	R
_____ Olive-sided Flycatcher.....	T
_____ Eastern Wood-Pewee.....	T
_____ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.....	T

_____	Acadian Flycatcher.....	T
_____	Alder Flycatcher.....	T
_____	Least Flycatcher	T
_____	Black Phoebe.....	X
_____	Eastern Phoebe.....	WR
_____	Say's Phoebe.....	WV
_____	Vermilion Flycatcher.....	WR
_____	Dusky-capped Flycatcher.....	X
_____	Ash-throated Flycatcher.....	V
_____	Great-crested Flycatcher.....	T
_____	Brown-crested Flycatcher	SR
_____	<u>Great Kiskadee</u>	R
_____	<u>Tropical Kingbird</u>	R
_____	<u>Couch's Kingbird</u>	R
_____	Western Kingbird	SV
_____	Eastern Kingbird	T
_____	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.....	SV
_____	Rose-throated Becard.....	X

Shrikes

_____	Loggerhead Shrike	
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Vireos

_____	White-eyed Vireo.....	R
_____	Bell's Vireo	T
_____	Cassin's Vireo.....	X
_____	Blue-headed Vireo.....	WR
_____	Warbling Vireo.....	T
_____	Philadelphia Vireo	T
_____	Red-eyed Vireo	T

Crows, Ravens and Jays

_____	<u>Green Jay</u>	R
_____	Chihuahuan Raven.....	V

Larks

_____	Horned Lark	R
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Swallows

_____	Purple Martin.....	SR
_____	Tree Swallow	WR
_____	Northern Rough-winged Swallow.....	R

___ Bank Swallow.....	SR
___ Cliff Swallow.....	SR
___ Cave Swallow.....	R
___ Barn Swallow.....	SR

Titmice, Penduline Tits and Creepers

___ Black-crested Titmouse.....	R
___ Verdin.....	R
___ Brown Creeper.....	WX

Wrens

___ Cactus Wren.....	V
___ Carolina Wren.....	R
___ Bewick's Wren.....	R
___ House Wren.....	WR
___ Winter Wren.....	WV
___ Sedge Wren.....	WR
___ Marsh Wren.....	WR

Gnatcatchers

___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.....	WR
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Kinglets

___ Golden-crowned Kinglet.....	WR
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	WR

Thrushes

___ Eastern Bluebird.....	WV
___ Veery.....	T
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush.....	T
___ Swainson's Thrush.....	T
___ Hermit Thrush.....	WR
___ Wood Thrush.....	T
___ <u>Clay-colored Thrush</u>	R
___ White-throated Thrush.....	X
___ American Robin.....	WR

Mockingbirds and Thrashers

___ Gray Catbird.....	T
___ Northern Mockingbird.....	R
___ Sage Thrasher.....	X
___ <u>Long-billed Thrasher</u>	R
___ Curve-billed Thrasher.....	R

Starlings

___ European Starling R

Pipits

___ American Pipit WV

___ Sprague's Pipit WV

Waxwings

___ Cedar Waxwing..... WV

Wood Warblers

___ Ovenbird T

___ Worm-eating Warbler T

___ Louisiana Waterthrush..... T

___ Northern Waterthrush..... T

___ Golden-winged Warbler T

___ Blue-winged Warbler T

___ Black-and-white Warbler..... WR

___ Prothonotary Warbler T

___ Swainson's Warbler..... T

___ Tennessee Warbler T

___ Orange-crowned Warbler WR

___ Nashville Warbler..... WR

___ MacGillivray's Warbler T

___ Mourning Warbler..... T

___ Kentucky Warbler..... T

___ Common Yellowthroat..... WR

___ Hooded Warbler T

___ American Redstart..... T

___ Cerulean Warbler T

___ Northern Parula T

___ Tropical Parula..... WV

___ Magnolia Warbler T

___ Bay-breasted Warbler..... T

___ Blackburnian Warbler..... T

___ Yellow Warbler..... T

___ Chestnut-sided Warbler T

___ Blackpoll Warbler..... T

___ Black-throated Blue Warbler V

___ Pine Warbler WR

_____ Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's ssp.).....	T
_____ Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle ssp.)	WR
_____ Yellow-throated Warbler	WR
_____ Black-throated Gray Warbler.....	WR
_____ Townsend's Warbler.....	X
_____ Black-throated Green Warbler	WR
_____ Canada Warbler	T
_____ Wilson's Warbler	WR
_____ Yellow-breasted Chat	T

Sparrows

_____ Olive Sparrow	R
_____ Green-tailed Towhee.....	WX
_____ Spotted Towhee	WX
_____ Cassin's Sparrow	T
_____ Chipping Sparrow	WV
_____ Clay-colored Sparrow	T
_____ Brewer's Sparrow.....	WX
_____ Field Sparrow.....	WV
_____ Vesper Sparrow.....	WV
_____ Lark Sparrow.....	WR
_____ Savannah Sparrow	WR
_____ Grasshopper Sparrow.....	WV
_____ Le Conte's Sparrow	WV
_____ Song Sparrow.....	WV
_____ Lincoln's Sparrow.....	WR
_____ Swamp Sparrow.....	WR
_____ White-throated Sparrow.....	WV
_____ White-crowned Sparrow.....	WV
_____ Dark-eyed Junco.....	X

Cardinals and Grosbeaks

_____ Summer Tanager.....	WR
_____ Scarlet Tanager	T
_____ Crimson-collared Grosbeak.....	X
_____ Northern Cardinal.....	R
_____ Pyrrhuloxia	R
_____ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	T
_____ Black-headed Grosbeak.....	WV

_____	Blue Bunting.....	X
_____	Blue Grosbeak.....	SR
_____	Indigo Bunting.....	WV
_____	Painted Bunting.....	T, SV
_____	Dickcissel.....	SV

Blackbirds and Orioles

_____	Red-winged Blackbird.....	R
_____	Eastern Meadowlark.....	R
_____	Western Meadowlark.....	WR
_____	Yellow-headed Blackbird.....	WV
_____	Brewer's Blackbird.....	WV
_____	Great-tailed Grackle.....	R
_____	Bronzed Cowbird.....	R
_____	Brown-headed Cowbird.....	R
_____	Orchard Oriole.....	T
_____	Hooded Oriole.....	SR
_____	Bullock's Oriole.....	T
_____	<u>Altamira Oriole</u>	R
_____	Audubon's Oriole.....	X
_____	Baltimore Oriole.....	T
_____	Scott's Oriole.....	X

Finches

_____	House Finch.....	X
_____	Pine Siskin.....	WV
_____	Lesser Goldfinch.....	R
_____	American Goldfinch.....	WR

Old World Sparrows

_____	House Sparrow.....	R
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Exotics

_____	Domestic Muscovy.....	V
_____	Budgerigar.....	V
_____	Red-Lored Parrot.....	V
_____	Yellow-headed Parrot.....	V
_____	Black-throated Magpie-Jay.....	X

CITATION

Arvin, J.C., and John Yochum, October 2012. Birds of Estero Llano Grande State Park: A Field Checklist. Natural Resources Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin, Texas.

In 1983, the Texas Legislature created the Special Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Fund. This fund may be used for nongame wildlife and endangered species research and conservation, habitat acquisition and development and dissemination of information pertaining to nongame management. Money for this fund is obtained through private donations and sale of nongame wildlife art prints and stamps. This fund now gives Texans a unique opportunity to help support this state's valuable and sensitive nongame resources. Your individual contributions and purchases of nongame art prints and stamps will help determine the level of nongame conservation activities in Texas. For more information call toll-free (1-800-792-1112) or contact: **Nongame and Endangered Species Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.**



**WORLD BIRDING
C E N T E R**



**Natural Resource Program
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
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